

THE TIMES-DISPATCH

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

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Congress of March 3, 1879.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1908.

Campaign Contributions

The Times-Dispatch will receive,
acknowledge and forward to the
treasurer of the National Demo-
cratic Campaign Committee all sums
sent it for this purpose.

FAILURE OF OYSTER CROP.

Yesterday The Times-Dispatch re-
published from the Newport News
Press the distressing statement that
the oyster crop was practically a com-
plete failure in James River. Reduced
to terms of human suffering, this bare
announcement means that a large pro-
portion of the men who were employed
upon the public bottoms will have to
find other employment or starve.

In 1906-7 there were 12,655 licensed
men who gained their living by taking
oysters on the public bottoms under
Virginia laws.

By the failure of the James River
oysters this year it is estimated that
5,000 men will lose seven months'
work, at an average of \$300 apiece for
the whole period. So the failure of
the Legislature and the State Board
of Fisheries to heed the earnest warn-
ings of The Times-Dispatch and to
follow the suggestions which were of-
fered in the shape of legislation by
Speaker Byrd, Senator John B. Wat-
kins and Senator T. Ashby Wickham
will cost the State nearly \$1,000,000,
and will bring suffering and distress
to thousands of families.

The pathetic and the terrible part
of all this is that it need never have
happened. For years the State Board
of Fisheries has been told that unless
some method were provided for in-
creasing the supply of seed oysters and
for helping the planters that Virginia
waters would ultimately be as barren
of oysters as the Capitol Square in the
city of Richmond; and the State Board
of Fisheries uniformly answered that
all it needed was more money, more
boats, more power. The State Board
of Fisheries had their way; they got
their increase, and the foretold oyster
famine has come.

At the last session of the Legislature
ignorance and self-interest combined
to defeat every reasonable proposition
for even investigating the oyster situa-
tion in Virginia. The tongsers trusted
in their representatives, and their rep-
resentatives failed to enact laws that
were for the ultimate good of those
who sent them to the Legislature. It
may interest the people of Virginia
to know that while thousands of its
citizens, by reason of incompetent man-
agement and bad laws, will suffer this
year bitterly because of the failure
of the oyster crop, that Connecticut
reports the most prosperous season in
its history and the largest returns, both
for the planters and for those whom
they employ. It will need prompt and
sagacious action if the oyster beds of
Virginia are not to be entirely de-
stroyed beyond all hope of restoration
during the lifetime of this generation.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

In Manchester, England, the cotton
mill operatives are threatened with a
lock-out, involving 200,000 men. This
painful and frightfully costly method
of determining differences between em-
ployer and employee directs attention
anew to the compulsory arbitration of
New Zealand. According to the ortho-
dox school of political economists, the
elimination of competition and, if need-
ful, conflict as a means for determining
the wage scale was an impossibility.
Apparently, however, a new school has
risen up that knows not Herbert Spenser
or Adam Smith, for instead of abol-
ishing the new-fangled device, New
Zealand, says the Springfield Republi-
can, is taking measures "to extend and
strengthen the system by imposing
fines upon workmen who become par-
ties to a strike, and heavier fines upon
employers who indulge in lock-outs.
In the case of specified industries deal-
ing in necessities of life, the fines are
to be made still larger. Such in a
general way are the provisions of a
bill lately presented by the prime min-
ister. As the state provides the ma-
chinery for the peaceful adjudication of
industrial disputes, it may reasonably
make extreme provision against re-
sort to violent methods of private war-
fare."

OLNEY'S DECLARATION FOR BRYAN.

In to-day's paper we publish a re-
markable letter by the Honorable Rich-
ard Olney to the New York World
on the candidacy of Mr. Bryan and Mr.
Taft. Like other Cleveland Democrats
throughout the length and breadth of
this land, Mr. Olney is supporting Mr.
Bryan, not because the present nomi-
nee represents in every particular the
wishes and the political convictions of
each individual, but because the coun-
try needs an absolute freedom from the
continuation of the Republican
dynasty, its policies and its principles.
And if any one will note the enthu-
siasm with which Mr. Bryan's as-
saults on essential Republicanism have
been received, no doubt can be left as
to the widespread and deep-seated re-
volt against the extravagance, the

bigotism, the centralization, and, above
all, the corrupt alliance between the
Republican party and the great cor-
porations involved in the maintenance
of the protective tariff.

Mr. Olney's letter has been criticized
because he takes Mr. Bryan as flag-
rant of two evils. It is worth re-
marking, however, that Mr. Olney
doubtless exercises a choice, and does
not content himself with futile and
ineffective criticism of both parties.
It is further to be remarked that the
reception Mr. Bryan has had in the
enemy's country showed that at least
he is no longer regarded as an ac-
credited and determined enemy of pros-
perity.

MR. BRYAN'S GAINS.

As the campaign progresses Republi-
can uneasiness is becoming more and
more manifest. Entering the struggle
with an assurance amounting to jaun-
tiness, Mr. Taft's managers have come
gradually but irresistibly to a better
appreciation of realities, and com-
pliance has given way to unconcealed
concern. These superintendents them-
selves are not, it appears, giving satis-
faction. We find the Chicago News,
for instance, demanding in an excited
editorial that Mr. Taft rid himself of
"these ridiculous managers" and "amaz-
ing bunglers," who have "mismanaged
abominably his campaign," and be-
gin to fight. But Mr. Taft, whether at
Hot Springs, Middle Bass Island or
Cincinnati, seems to have suffered
from the same pleasant hallucinations
that have incapacitated the bunglers.

Even our Republican friends are now
ready to admit that as a campaigner
Mr. Bryan leaves Mr. Taft looking
somewhat helpless. The Democratic
candidate has been deluded by no
dreams that the O. K. of a distinguish-
ed citizen "higher up" insures a ten-
ancy of the White House. He has
been working, and working with sin-
gular vigor, ability and adroitness. He
has hammered the Republican weak-
nesses squarely, and returning that
very next day he has hammered them
again. The material for effective
speeches which belongs to Democrats
is ample, and probably no man could
have made a more telling use of it. As
a result, the political map of the coun-
try is undergoing certain unmis-
takable changes. The New York Herald's
weekly forecasts are commonly con-
sidered the most trustworthy now pub-
lished in the United States; no doubt
they are as accurate as forecasts can
be. They show steady gains for Mr.
Bryan, the gain last week being
notably large. On Sunday, September
13th, the Herald gave Mr. Taft 206
electoral votes, Mr. Bryan 161 and 116
doubtful. Yesterday the Herald gave
Mr. Taft 165 votes, Mr. Bryan 161 and
157 doubtful. In one week, in short,
Mr. Bryan removed forty-one electoral
votes from Mr. Taft's possession into
the doubtful column. Twenty-three of
these votes, incidentally, are attached
to Mr. Taft's native State of Ohio.

Election day is still six weeks away.
The present situation, however, and
more significantly, the present trend,
is more encouraging to the Democratic
party than anything offered to it in a
decade.

AN EPISODE OR A CHAPTER?

The publication of John D. Arch-
bold's correspondence with Senator
Foraker was in the nature of an ac-
cident. These letters, Mr. Hearst says,
were presented to him by a representa-
tive of an independent oil company,
with a view of exposing the methods
of its giant rival. But for the inci-
dence of the motive of competitive
jealousy, therefore, the Ohio Senator's
eighty-year-old relations with the
Standard would probably never have
been known. Unhappily, motives of
this revelatory tendency are not always
at hand. If a Senator of Foraker's
conspicuous strength and supposedly
unblemished record has found the al-
lurements of wealth too strong for
him, why not another? What other
Senators, as yet undiscovered, have
similarly betrayed their trusts?

APART FROM THE SUDDEN FURNISHING OF

an honored name, always a tragic
thing, the most sudden feature about
this disclosure is the fresh confirma-
tion it brings of corrupt alliance be-
tween legislation and corruption. It
offers irrefutable proof of the worst
that the alarmists in the popular mag-
azines have charged. Commerce offers
dollars to make or break laws, and mem-
bers of the highest law-making body
have sworn to execute the people's
will, take the dollars and so sell out.
An episode in itself, this disclosure
inevitably suggests others like it,
transactions "in accordance with our
understanding" involving other Sena-
tors, other corporations. As for the
Standard Oil Company, its measure had
already been pretty well taken, for all
the protestations of innocence made by
the very Mr. Archbold who indites
such pointed letters in connection with
"objectionable" bills.

THE TALENT OF MONEY IN THE SPRINGS

of legislation is an insidious and sinister
thing. There is no greater menace to
free institutions than this.

We are endeavoring to persuade Man-
chester to take the pennant won by
the amazing ball team of Richmond on
a national tour, believing that big
money can be made by showing it in
muff towns like St. Louis, Brooklyn,
Birmingham, Houston and the like.

Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay has an-
nounced herself a suffragette. We

hand this impartially to the seven can-
didates to make such use of as they
may.

We assume that the Texas preacher

who declares that "there is too much
animal in us all" is a recent convert
to vegetarianism.

The contest between Chanler and

Hughes in New York will put the whis-
ker issue squarely and definitely be-
fore the people.

Holland has no heir apparent, and in

the regard Holland reminds us some-
what of the present occupant of the White
House.

You can buy Ambrose Bierce's col-
lected works for \$100, but don't blame

his afterwards.

An autumn, it appears, is going to try

its little lap-lap-lap.

Borrowed Jingles

A FRIENDLY ESTIMATE.

[Mike Donovan, the boxing instructor, is
going to write a biography of the Rev. J. A.
Jacobs. He has already written one. We
give herewith what we believe to be the
first accurate composite of both.]

Mike—The R. is quite the mightiest man in
all this wondrous land.

Mike—Whether he is right or wrong, he has
a punch in either hand.

Mike—Beside him any other man looks like
a pie-faced mite.

Mike—He's got an awful wallop and a
deadly uppercut.

Mike—He has it on Apollo in the line of
fancy looks.

Mike—He don't come through with jets so
much, but dodge his jabs and
hooks.

Mike—In literature he's surely got both
Keats and Shakespeare skinned.

Mike—And yet he's been relieved of all
kinds of expenses with which King
Carlos was saddled, such as the main-
tenance of a household, the support of
a number of utterly useless palaces, both
at Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro.

Mike—I've never seen him, but I know
he's a good fellow.

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he's a good fellow.

Mike—He's a first in peace, he's first in
war, he's first in everything.

Mike—Too bad he didn't get in right—he'd
ought of been a "pug."

—James J. Montague, in New York Ameri-
can.

MERELY JOKING.

Don't. People in the next flat have a
nasty dog.

"Why don't you complain?"

"We have a baby."—Louisville Courier-
Journal.

PERIODICALS.

The dictionary describes an affinity as a
chemical attraction.

"Most of them are."—Louisville Courier-
Journal.

AN IMPOSSIBLE CONVERSATION.

"Things look blue for Yale's fall fall."

"Yes, you have plenty of good football
material."—Pittsburgh Post.

MODERN SAYINGS.

"Yes, he is as independent as a hog on
ice."

"Say, rather, as a hog in an end seat."—
Pittsburgh Post.

NOT IN THE LIFE.

"I guess you've learned some things,"
cried the farmer.

"Yes," admitted the actor, who had hired
out the most important creature does and
constituted of vocal selections in Act I, eating
a meal in Act II, and winding up with a
country dance in Act III."—Pittsburgh Post.

THE SITUATION.

"Boys will be boys."

"Now about boys?"

"Oh, they will be whatever fashion
dictates."—Houston Chronicle.

PARAGRAPHIC PUNCHES.

AND now, members of the Paraphra-
sical Union, if you have quite finished
your work, please direct your attention to
the following paragraph:

"But we're trying to strengthen our
debating team."—Washington Herald.

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The Courts of Europe
by
La Marquise de Fontenay

King Manuel's Income \$1,000 a Day.
ING MANUEL, of Portugal's
civil list has at length been
discovered. He is a very poor
man, and voted by both houses of
the national legislature. It is
set at \$1,000 a day, or \$300,000
a year. In addition he receives the
same amount which his father re-
ceived, and found so inadequate that
he became heavily involved in debt.
But Manuel has been relieved of all
kinds of expenses with which King
Carlos was saddled, such as the main-
tenance of a household, the support of
a number of utterly useless palaces, both
at Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro.

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